



FSU-WESTERN: In Ukraine, unseasonably cool, wet weather hampered fieldwork for corn, sunflower, and sugar beet harvesting and winter wheat planting. Precipitation in Ukraine generally ranged from 17 to 50 mm, with the greatest amounts of rain (more than 50 mm) falling in south-central areas. Although wet weather since the beginning of September has provided adequate to abundant topsoil moisture for winter wheat germination and early plant establishment, it has increased the potential for diseases in maturing summer crops. In northern Russia, soaking rain (25 - 50 mm or more) stretched from the Central Black Soils Region and the middle Volga Valley, northeastward into the Volga Vyatsk, providing abundant soil moisture for newly emerged winter grains. Mostly dry weather prevailed in the Northwest Region and Central Region, helping autumn fieldwork. Unseasonably cool weather (weekly temperatures averaging 2-3 degrees C below normal) was observed in northern Russia, slowing early winter grain development. Furthermore, most locations reported extreme minimum temperatures ranging from -3 to 0 degrees C. Elsewhere in Russia, mostly dry weather in North Caucasus and the lower Volga Valley helped corn, sugar beet, and sunflower harvesting and winter wheat planting. Reports from Russia as of September 21 indicated that corn, sugar beets, and sunflowers were about 6, 13, and 7 percent harvested, respectively. Furthermore, winter grains had progressed to about 64 percent planted.